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## Miami-Dade District Receives 'A' Grade From State

When the Florida Department of Education recently released school grades for 2017-18, the Miami-Dade County Public Schools earned a grade of "A" – the first time in the history of the Florida School Performance Grades that the district has achieved such a rating.

Higher percentages of Miami-Dade schools received "A" grades in 2018 than statewide across all schools. Forty-seven

**Miami-Dade** continued on page 3



Florida's Duval County Schools Superintendent Diana Greene reads to students at Mamie Agnes Jones Elementary School in Jacksonville on the first day of school. The school is where Greene began her teaching career.

## Urban Schools Launch New Initiatives In Kicking Off New School Year

Efforts to improve the safety of students as well as provide students with social and emotional supports are just some of the initiatives urban school districts are implementing for the 2018-2019 school year. Here's a city-by-city roundup of what's new in urban school districts:

### Albuquerque

New Mexico's Albuquerque Public Schools opened a \$12.5-million special education wing at La Cueva High School, featuring nine specialized Individualized Service Plan classrooms, one sensory classroom, one occupational therapy/physical therapy classroom and one life skills classroom.

### Aurora

As a result of a \$300-million bond program voters approved in 2016, Colorado's Aurora Public Schools is opening the Mrachek Middle School, a two-story 130,000-square foot building with separate learning communities for each grade level that will serve up to 1,000 students.

### Baltimore

Baltimore City Public Schools is opening five new buildings this fall under the 21<sup>st</sup> Century School Buildings Program. The \$1-billion initiative was established in 2013 by the Maryland General Assembly to redesign and rebuild aging school facilities.

**Urban Schools** continued on page 4

COUNCIL OF THE GREAT CITY SCHOOLS  
62nd ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE

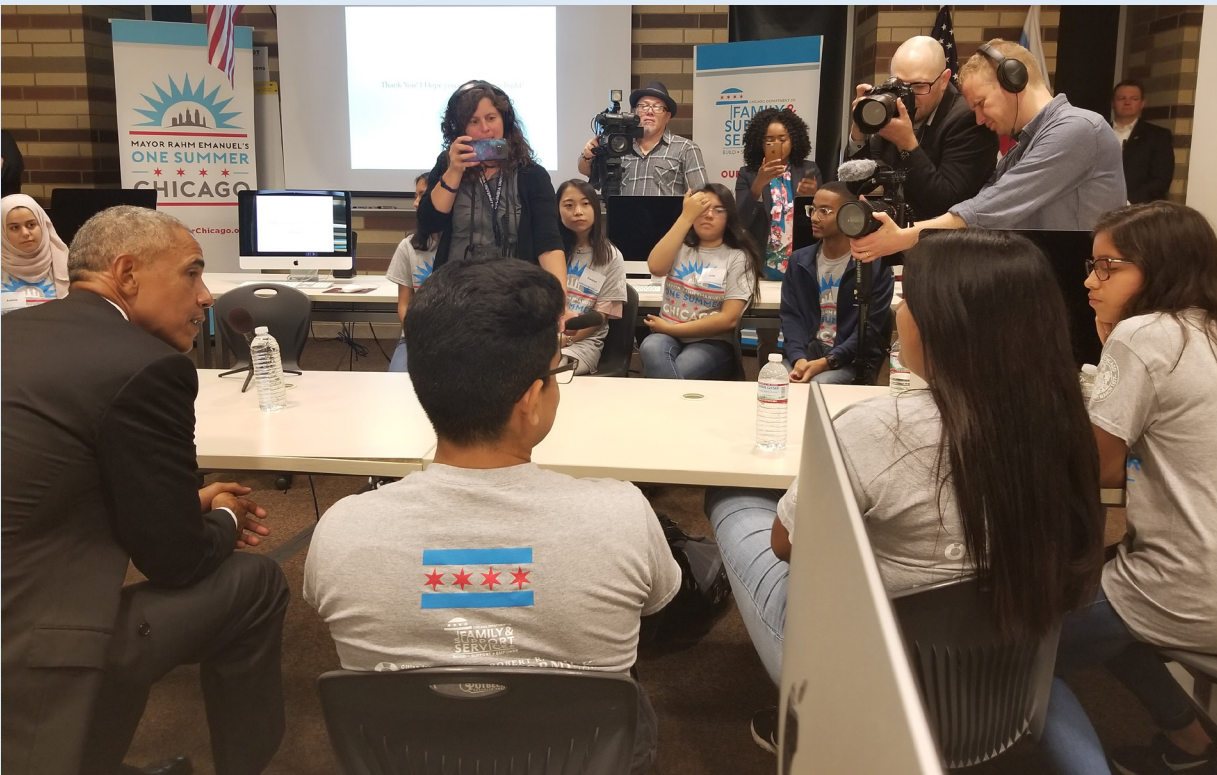
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OCTOBER 24 TO 28, 2018

WELCOME TO  
**BALTIMORE**

## Fall Conference in Oct.

The Council of the Great City Schools will host the nation's largest conference for urban education leaders Oct. 24-28 in Baltimore. Details on page 9.



## Former President Obama Surprises Chicago Students

Former President Barack Obama surprises a group of high school students in a recent visit to Chicago’s Eric Solorio Academy. He shared some wisdom with the students participating in Mayor Rahm Emanuel’s “One Summer Chicago” jobs program.

“I think...a useful lesson for all of you is to just don’t be afraid to try stuff because we hold ourselves back a lot by thinking ‘I don’t know if I can pull this off, I don’t want to be embarrassed, I don’t want to seem foolish, you know, I don’t want somebody laughing at me or saying I don’t belong.’ You can pull it off. So you know, try it out. Alright? Don’t hold yourself back.” The students learned how to code over the summer, and Obama called them “very impressive young people.” (Photo credit: Brooke Collins, Chicago Mayor’s Office)



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# School Districts in Jacksonville, Jackson Appoint New Superintendents; Denver Chief to Step Down; San Diego Chief's Tenure Extended



**Diana Greene**

Diana Greene began her teaching career at an elementary school in Duval County Public Schools in Jacksonville, Fla., more than 30 years ago. She is now back in the district but serving in a different role: superintendent of schools.

Greene was recently selected to take the helm of the 130,000-student school system, succeeding interim superintendent Patricia Williams.

Before coming to Jacksonville, she was the superintendent of Florida's School District of Manatee County. Under her leadership, the 49,000-student district improved academically receiving a "B" grade from the state two of the last three years, after receiving a "C" grade the previous three years.

Also selecting a new superintendent was Mississippi's Jackson Public Schools, which named Errick Greene to lead the



**Errick Greene**

he launched the district's transformation initiative.

## Denver Leader Leaving

Tom Boasberg was serving as chief operating officer for Denver Public Schools when he was unanimously appointed as superintendent in January 2009.

During his tenure, the district has posted record enrollment increases and increased its four-year graduation rate by more than 25 percentage points. The school system has also tripled the number of its students receiving college credit for Ad-

vanced Placement courses and it has decreased the dropout rate by more than 60 percent.

Greene is the chief of schools for the Tulsa Public Schools in Oklahoma, where

vanced Placement courses and it has decreased the dropout rate by more than 60 percent.

Boasberg recently announced that he is leaving the district after serving nearly a decade at the helm. In the process, he became one of the nation's longest serving urban school superintendents.



**Tom Boasberg**

Earlier this year, he was chosen as the national Hispanic-Serving School District Superintendent of the Year by the Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents for the progress that Latino students have made in the district under his leadership.

## Tenure Extended

Cindy Marten, who took the reins of the San Diego Unified School District in 2013, will remain at the helm through June 2020, as a result of a new contract extension.



**Cindy Marten**

Under her leadership, academic achievement has improved, access to college classes has expanded and students have been provided with more support services, such as counseling.

## Boston Appoints Interim

Boston Public Schools has selected Laura Perille as the district's interim superintendent. She will succeed Tommy Chang, who recently resigned from the district.

Perille was the president and CEO of EdVestors, a school improvement non-profit designed to improve the academic achievement of students in Boston.

### Miami-Dade continued from page 1

percent of Miami-Dade schools achieved "A" grades – an increase of 8 percentage points from last year – while just 32 percent of school districts statewide received "A" ratings – a two-point increase.

"This historic, record-setting news is a testament to the fortitude and focus of students, teachers, school and district leaders, support staff and every member of the Miami-Dade County Public Schools team," said Schools Superintendent Alberto Carvalho in a news release. "We are fortunate to have the support and visionary leadership of our school board and a group of talented professionals who I consider the best instructional staff in the nation – our teachers..."

Of Florida's county districts that have large cities, the School District of Palm Beach County also surpassed the statewide

percentage of schools earning "A" grades with 42 percent in 2017-18.

Broward County Public Schools in Fort Lauderdale rated near Florida's 32 percent mark of schools earning "A" grades with 31 percent of its schools achieving the high mark.

Miami-Dade also received higher ratings than the state and the other large counties when examining the percentage of schools combined across "A" and "B" ratings, and across "A", "B", and "C" grades. Ninety-eight percent of Miami-Dade schools are rated A, B or C.

The Florida Department of Education considers 11 components in calculating school grades annually, including student achievement and learning gains on statewide, standardized assessments and high school graduation rates.

**Urban Schools** *continued from page 1*

ties. The new schools will have technology labs, art rooms and new water filtration systems.

**Boston**

Boston Public Schools is opening the Dearborn STEM 6-12 Early College Academy, the first school in the district designed and built for STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) learning. The \$73-million facility is the first new school construction project in the school district in 15 years.

**Broward County**

In an effort to provide students with safe and secure learning environments, Broward County Public Schools in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., is installing 2,500 additional cameras on school campuses, will have at least one school resource officer at every school and is partnering with the Sandy Hook Promise Foundation to implement violence prevention programs. The school system is also expanding its debate initiative to an additional 30 elementary schools, launching its first Gifted Academy for students in grades 9-12 and expanding the number of dual language programs to 40 elementary schools.

**Buffalo**

Buffalo Public Schools is implementing a new collaboration tool and strategy -Workplace by Facebook. The tool is designed to strengthen district-wide learning communities through sharing ideas, best practices and streamlining communication across teams of educators. And as a result of a partnership with a local health organization, all schools will have highly trained, full-time pediatric nurses.

**Charlotte**

North Carolina's Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools is partnering with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department to launch a new awareness campaign to educate students about the consequences of making school threats. The #ThinkBeforeYouPost campaign includes digital billboards, public

service announcement videos and messages on social media. In addition, the district is opening three new schools, adding 60 psychologists, counselors and social workers and piloting "Caring School Community" in 48 schools to help students become caring, responsible members of their school communities.

**Chicago**

The nation's third largest school system is launching the Sustainable Community School Initiative, a collaboration between 20 schools and community organizations to increase access to academic and non-academic programs for children. Services will include afterschool programs and health services and each school will receive \$500,000 to implement the initiative. And in an effort to provide students with social and emotional supports, the district is hiring 160 social workers and 94 special education case workers in high-needs schools.

**Cincinnati**

Cincinnati Public Schools is adding new programs at six additional neighborhood schools as part of the district's Vision 2020: My Tomorrow Initiative. The neighborhood schools will receive specialized curriculum tailored to the schools' communities, and programs include career awareness and exploration, digital leadership and technology and the arts.

**Clark County**

Nevada's Clark County School District in Las Vegas is partnering with several community groups, including the Clark County Department of Juvenile Justice Services, to decrease the school-to-prison pipeline. As part of the Clark County School Justice Partnership, schools will be encouraged to use in-school strategies of early intervention and support to prevent students from entering the juvenile justice system, especially black males, who are disproportionately suspended or expelled from school.

**Cleveland**

Cleveland Metropolitan School District is opening seven new PreK-8 buildings this school year and CS4CLE, an effort to put computer science in every high school, will double in size and serve about half of the district's high schools. Also, 13 schools have adopted one of three instructional designs: inquiry-based learning, youth leadership development and personalized learning using technology.

**Dallas**

Dallas Independent School District is opening the Solar Preparatory School for Boys, a new all-boys school for PreK through second grade designed to cultivate future leaders. And beginning this fall, the school system will run its own bus system after residents voted to shut down the Dallas County Schools bus agency, which the district contracted with to bus students, over financial mismanagement.



Dallas Schools Superintendent Michael Hinojosa visits students at L.O. Donald Elementary.

**Denver**

Denver Public Schools is using a \$1 million investment from The Campbell Foundation to implement a comprehensive strategy designed to improve academic and social-emotional outcomes for students. The grant will support a four-part strategy that provides training and coaching for trauma-informed practices, including the development of an official trauma certification for district staff. Last fall, the board of education passed a resolution declaring the district to be a trauma-informed district.

**Detroit**

Detroit Public Schools Community District will begin implementing School Advisory Councils to involve the community when principals develop their school

**Urban Schools** *continued on page 5*

**Urban Schools** *continued from page 4*

improvement, discipline and enrollment plans. An art or music program will be expanded to each school, along with physical education or gym, and the district's Cultural Passport program will enable K-5 students to participate in three culturally rich field trips.

**District of Columbia**

The District of Columbia Public Schools launched Excel Academy, the district's first all-girls school that will accommodate nearly 500 students through grade 8. The school will offer science, technology, engineering, and STEM-focused courses to expose young women of color to careers where they are historically under-represented. The district is also launching a new partnership with American University that will allow students to take courses in the School of Education and earn college credit.

**Duval County**

Duval County Public Schools in Jacksonville, Fla., is adding electronic entry systems to all of its schools and is working to staff elementary schools with school safety assistants. The district's Ed White High School has established an agreement with Florida State College at Jacksonville to begin an Early College Program, providing students the opportunity to pursue their associate's degree. And the district is adding three new certified athletic trainers, bringing the number of high schools with full-time certified athletic trainers to 15 as a part of Project 17, a sports medicine initiative.

**El Paso**

Texas' El Paso Independent School district has implemented School Finder, a new tool on the district's website to help students and parents find the right school using their academic interests, neighborhood and grade level. The district is also offering to preK and kindergarten parents Tips by Text, a free new tool developed by researchers at Brown University to improve early-childhood education. Texts sent to



**Hawaii Schools Superintendent Christina Kishimoto is interviewed by a local news station on the first day of school.**

parents give useful facts, tips and suggestions for activities that can help their children start learning to read early.

**Fort Worth**

Beginning this fall, Texas' Fort Worth Independent School District is implementing a new daily class schedule, adding 15 more minutes in class for students. The district is also adding a student holiday in March to honor labor leaders Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta. The board approved a resolution setting aside a class holiday each spring to honor Latinos and Latinas who have greatly contributed to the country.

**Fresno**

California's Fresno Unified School District is partnering with Fresno City College to offer college night classes at two district high schools.

**Guilford County**

North Carolina's Guilford County Schools in Greensboro is implementing a new math curriculum at all elementary schools and a new 6-8 math curriculum in all middle schools. The district is also launching student ID cards in seven pilot schools to help support safety efforts by restricting access to school buildings. The cards include student's name, school and ID number and must be worn at all times during school hours to enter and exit buildings. The cards will also be used to purchase meals and check out library books.

**Hawaii**

The Hawaii State Department of Education is launching a bus stop locator/bus schedule information web application called "Infofinder i," to enable parents to search for their child's nearest school bus stop. The application will be posted on individual school websites and also provides morning pick-up and afternoon drop-off times for all grade levels.

**Hillsborough County**

Hillsborough County Public Schools in Tampa, Fla., is aiming to help students in 50 of the district's highest needs schools through its *Achievement Schools* initiative. The initiative will give students the tools they need to succeed by shifting how the district provides support and resources to the 50 Achievement schools through the lens of equity. The schools will work toward increasing the number of students performing at or above grade level in reading and math within three years and advisory teams composed of parents, students and community members are being created for each school.

**Houston**

As a result of the passage of a 2012 Bond Program, the Houston Independent School District is opening 13 schools this fall, the largest number of building openings at one time in district history. The new schools include the High School for Law and Justice, featuring a courtroom, crime-scene investigations lab and a law library. The district is also launching a Parent University to support parents and families in the education of their children and introduce them to district programs, resources, and parent-engagement strategies.

**Indianapolis**

Indianapolis Public Schools is opening four new Technical Centers at high schools designed to provide services to increase the number of students completing high school and becoming college or career ready. In addition to college assistance and preparation, the centers will offer tutoring, mock interviews and resume writing and is

**Urban Schools** *continued on page 6*

**Urban Schools** *continued from page 5*

funded though a \$2.8-million grant from the Eli Lilly Foundation. The district also has revamped cafeterias at its high schools offering a salad and toppings bar and eight to 10 different entree options daily — an increase from five last year.

### **Jefferson County**

Jefferson County Public Schools in Louisville, Ky., is launching the “Backpack of Success Skills” initiative identifying five key areas that students will need to master before graduating high school. Students will have access to a virtual backpack through Google, where they can place their projects and videos to support what they have learned. The district is also opening the W.E.B. DuBois Academy, an all-boys middle school offering an Afrocentric and multicultural curriculum.

### **Miami**

Miami-Dade County Public Schools is launching an Office of School Safety and Compliance to coordinate and apply school safety best practices and trainings. In addition, the district is implementing the Middle School Redesign initiative at all 49 middle schools, launching a new College Board program in which participating schools will offer Pre-AP courses in math, English, history and the arts. The district is also creating an E(liminate)-cigs Awareness Campaign to increase public awareness of the negative consequences of tobacco use. The school system is also partnering with Miami Dade College to recruit, educate and support paraprofessionals as they transition into full-time teaching.

### **Milwaukee**

Milwaukee Public Schools is launching a district-wide attendance initiative called “Attend today. Achieve tomorrow.” As part of the initiative, students will be charged with monitoring their attendance so they miss no more than one day a month and the district is teaming up with local sports teams, elected officials and businesses to encourage students to be in school.



**Jefferson County Schools Superintendent Marty Pollio greets a student on the first day of school at the new W.E.B. DuBois Academy.**

### **Nashville**

Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools is offering students the opportunity to graduate with a diploma and a college degree for free with the opening of its Early College High School Program. In partnership with Nashville State Community College, the program will offer eighth-graders who qualify the opportunity to graduate with an associate’s degree in Information Technology.

### **New York City**

The nation’s largest school system is opening 48 new bilingual programs in 42 schools this fall, including the first-ever Albanian Dual Language program. And the district’s 3K program to provide early childhood education to every three-year-old is expanding to serve 5,000 students at 187 sites.

### **Oakland**

Students in California’s Oakland Unified School District will have access to clean drinking water, as a result of the district installing new hydration stations at 110 schools. The city’s sugar tax provided \$371,000 in funding for the stations. In addition, the school system is partnering with two environmental organizations to transform schools with asphalt-covered schoolyards into green spaces. Five schools in low-income neighborhoods will serve as demonstration sites, and will remove as-

phalt to provide gardens that will serve as outdoor classrooms.

### **Oklahoma City**

Oklahoma City Public Schools is implementing the Bilingual Teacher Pipeline Project to recruit and retain bilingual teachers. The program covers participants’ books and tuition and provides academic support for paraprofessionals in the district working to earn their teaching certification to become full-time teachers. The certification will be offered at four colleges.

### **Orange County**

Orange County Public Schools in Orlando, Fla., distributed more than 135,000 digital devices this school year and every middle and high school student has a district-issued laptop as part of the LaunchED program. LaunchED schools are outfitted with state-of-the-art equipment and services such as increased Internet bandwidth, wireless access points and large interactive touch-screen flat panels. The district is also requiring all middle and high school students to view new Code of Student Conduct videos.

### **Palm Beach**

Florida’s School District of Palm Beach County has designated more than 1,500 teachers who received training on how to integrate technology into classrooms as Tech Trailblazers. The teachers had to undergo approximately 13 hours of training to become Google Classroom Certified and will train other teachers on their campus. According to district officials, the school system has more Google-Certified teachers than any school district in the nation.

### **Philadelphia**

The School District of Philadelphia is launching its new Arts & Creativity Framework, an effort to redesign the district’s arts education and bolster arts resources and curriculum. Under the Framework, school-based arts planning teams will be created, all elementary students will get increased access to music and art classes and high

**Urban Schools** *continued on page 7*

**Urban Schools** *continued from page 6*

school students will have the opportunity to participate in college and career aligned arts activities. The district will also work to provide students with enriched learning experiences and engagement through integration of arts activities into non-arts subjects such as reading, math and history.

**Pinellas County**

Florida’s Pinellas County Schools, which includes St. Petersburg, is opening its first-ever technical high school designed to prepare students for college and technical careers after they graduate by offering such programs in construction technology, electricity, and nursing. A new online tool called Personalized Learning Pathway will enable students to see their performance on assessments and access targeted lessons to improve and track their progress toward graduation. And the district is offering PCS eCounselor, in which parents and students can get their academic questions answered by a professional school counselor after hours.

**Pittsburgh**

Pittsburgh Public Schools is participating in the Pennsylvania Department of Education’s school improvement pilot program, a new plan to more closely share state resources with districts that have the lowest-achieving schools. Under the plan, the state will provide direct support and monitor student progress at Title I schools that fall in the bottom 5 percent of performance statewide, as well as any high school with a graduation rate at or below 67 percent.

**Portland**

Beginning this fall, all drinking fixtures and fountains in the common area of all Portland Public Schools in Oregon will be in full operation. According to district officials, test results show that the quality of the water coming from the drinking faucets is now better than the Environmental Protection Agency recommendations for schools. The district is also embarking on a plan to reduce bottled water in schools.



**Pittsburgh Schools Superintendent Anthony Hamlet visits Pittsburgh Miller PreK-5 as part of the school's second annual First Day of School Red Carpet.**

**San Antonio**

Texas’ San Antonio Independent School District is adding dual language programs at an additional 32 schools and opening a 100 percent dual language school for students in PreK through second grade. And in an effort to improve meals for students, the district partnered with the Culinary Institute of America at San Antonio to create a program in which all of the district’s child nutrition managers participated in weeklong skill enhancement sessions at the institute’s kitchens.

**Seattle**

Seattle Public Schools is introducing Naviance, a college and career planning tool aimed at helping students in grades 8-12 identify their strengths, interests and goals and link them to college and career pathways. The tool enables counselors to provide more individualized attention to students.

**Toledo**

Ohio’s Toledo Public Schools recently opened the doors of the Aerospace & Natural Science Academy of Toledo. The academy has a career tech focus in several industries, including aviation and aeronautics and urban agriculture and agribusiness, and students will have the opportunity to earn college credit, industrial credentials and employment after graduation. The school

system is also opening two STEM (science, technology, engineering, math and medicine) academies.

**Tulsa**

Oklahoma’s Tulsa Public Schools is launching the “Tulsa Beyond” project, bringing school leaders, teachers, students, and community members together to design and eventually implement ways of teaching and learning that will provide new and innovative secondary learning models. Four district schools volunteered to be pilots for the project and each school has assembled a design team to begin work on designing how high schools can provide more engaging and relevant 21<sup>st</sup> century learning experiences.

**Wichita**

Wichita Public Schools is creating a new aviation technical education pathway, the first in Kansas, that will enable students to receive their high school diploma and technical certificate for employment in



**Wichita Schools Superintendent Alicia Thompson, left, rode a school bus on the first day of school joining students and bus driver Mollie Cornwell.**

the aviation industry after graduation. The district is also opening Bryant Opportunity Academy, a K-6 school that will provide wrap-around support services for students with unique behavior challenges with the goal of preparing them to return to a regular classroom setting.

## Houston Bounces Back From Hurricane Harvey A Year Ago

It has been a year since Hurricane Harvey ripped through Houston late last August, damaging multiple campuses and displacing thousands of students in the Houston Independent School District.

Yet on the one-year anniversary of the hurricane, most schools have been restored and welcoming students back this fall.

Throughout last school year, organizations, volunteers and philanthropists stepped forward to beautify campuses and replace damaged school equipment. The district, with assistance from the Council of the Great City Schools, distributed clothing and school supplies to students and provided trauma counseling. Relief grants were also given to teachers and staff struggling to recover from the storm.

However, four district elementary schools received so much damage that they must be rebuilt. Students and staff from each of the four schools will remain in temporary spaces until their home schools are rebuilt and opened, which is expected in 2020.

Despite the extensive relief efforts, Harvey did not stop the school system from launching two major initiatives: Achieve 180, a program to support and empower underperforming schools; and Every Community, Every School, which connects schools to community resources to improve student well-being.

For Houston Schools Interim Superintendent Grenita Lathan, Harvey demonstrated what she already knew about the district—its spirit is strong and unbreakable.

“Although Harvey will always be a part of our history, we are looking to the future and fulfilling our mission to equitably educate every child,” said Lathan. “While we are never safe from natural disasters, we can be ready for whatever comes our way – and we are. Harvey brought us together and made us stronger. That’s the Houston way. That’s the HISD way.”

## NYC Schools Chancellor Surprised By ‘System of Segregation’



Richard Carranza

When New York City Schools Chancellor Richard Carranza took the reins of the nation’s largest school district last April, he was surprised at what he found.

“I’m coming to a blue city in a blue state thinking, ‘Wow, this is really progressive,’” he said in a recent [front-page article in \*The New York Times\*](#). Once the former Houston schools superintendent took office in New York, he found “a system of segregation that is baked into the system and is just kind of accepted.”

Now starting his first full school year as chancellor, he wants to talk about how to integrate more black and brown students into the city’s most elite schools, which are predominantly white and Asian.

He wants to discuss how school zones may be changed and if “gifted and talented” classes should exist, as reported in the Sept. 4 article headlined “Richard Carranza Is Talking About Integration.

Can He Make It Happen?”

“The New York schools chancellor inherited one of the country’s most segregated systems, where officials have avoided change and where entrenched policies feed the problem,” the *Times* story noted in a subhead.

Chancellor Carranza faces a steep challenge in educating 1.1 million students in New York City, where it’s estimated that two-thirds of the city’s students are black and Hispanic.

“In New York, racial separation in the city’s schools has persisted, driven not just by residential housing patterns, but by policies designed to keep white and middle-class families from fleeing public schools,” the article points out.

Right now, the chancellor is conducting what he calls “a values conversation” to consider citywide school change. He wants to change hearts and minds, and not force integration.

“People are starting to get excited and motivated to have this conversation, this discussion, and then to develop a plan,” said Carranza. “I’m really optimistic.”

## Aurora District in Colorado Joins Council

As one of the most diverse school systems in Colorado, Aurora Public Schools recently joined the Council of the Great City Schools, increasing the urban-school coalition’s membership to 72 public school districts.

The school system enrolls more than 40,000 students in 63 schools who come from more than 130 countries and speak over 160 languages. “APS is a district of momentum, opportunity and impact,”

says Chief Communications Officer Patti Moon.

Led by Superintendent Rico Munn, the Aurora district has several notable alumni, including retired Admiral Michelle Howard, who became the first African American woman to command a ship in the U.S. Navy.





# Council of the Great City Schools 62ND ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE

*“Building A Generation: Blueprints for Success in Urban Education”*

Hosted by Baltimore City Public Schools

**October 24- 28, 2018**  
Baltimore Marriott Waterfront  
Baltimore, MD

**Wednesday, October 24**

7:00 am-5:00 pm	Conference registration
1:00 pm-5:00 pm	Task Force Meetings
6:30 pm-8:30 pm	Welcome reception at American Visionary Art Museum

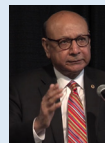
**Thursday, October 25**

7:30 am-9:00 am	Breakfast and Welcome
9:00 am-12:15 pm	Breakout Sessions
12:30 pm-2:00 pm	Lunch and Speaker: <b>Michelle Alexander</b>
2:15 pm-5:30 pm	Breakout Sessions
7:00 pm-9:00 pm	29th Annual Green-Garner Awards Banquet: Urban Educator of the Year Announced



**Friday, October 26**

7:30 am-9:00 am	Breakfast and Speaker: <b>Khizr Khan</b>
9:00 am-12:30 pm	Breakout Sessions
12:30 pm-2:00 pm	Lunch and Speaker: <b>Jill Biden</b>
2:30 pm-4:00 pm	National Town Hall Meeting
6:30 pm-8:30 pm	Reception/Show at Baltimore School for the Arts



**Saturday, October 27**

8:00 am-9:00 am	Breakfast
8:30 am-12:00 pm	Board of Directors Meeting
12:00 pm-2:30 pm	Legislative Directors Meeting
7:30 pm-10:00 pm	Farewell Party and Crab Feast at Nick's Fish House



**Sunday, October 28**

8:00 am- 11:30 am	Breakfast and Closing Session
11:30 am	Adjourn

## Palm Beach District Partners with NYU To Prepare Teachers

The School District of Palm Beach County is partnering with New York University’s Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development aimed at creating a pipeline of highly qualified new teachers for its classrooms.

The South Florida school district has teamed up with a teacher education program hundreds of miles away in New York City that’s now in its fourth year. NYU Steinhardt’s Teacher Residency enables students to earn graduate degrees by combining technology-enhanced coursework with full-time residency experiences in urban schools.

Because coursework and mentoring with NYU Steinhardt faculty take place online, students will be immersed in classrooms in the School District of Palm Beach County without having to be on the university’s campus.

“Our model marries practice with theory – working hand-in-hand with seasoned classroom teachers in schools and delivering an intensive online curriculum -- in order to give future teachers the foundational experience they need,” said Dean Dominic Brewer at NYU Steinhardt in a press release.

The 12-month program blends online learning – a series of intensive academic modules designed to prepare secondary English, math, social studies, science and special education teachers --with structured and full-time residency experiences.

“Participants in the program will have an opportunity to earn their master’s degree while gaining valuable classroom experience, and the guarantee of a job in Palm Beach County after graduation,” said Chief of Human Resources Gonzalo La Cava of the Palm Beach school system.

“We know that there is high demand for high-quality teachers, and this partnership with NYU is one way that we can ‘grow our own’ workforce in Palm Beach County,” he emphasized.

## Perkins Career and Technical Education Act Reauthorization Enacted

By Jeff Simering, *Director of Legislation*

Over the past decade, federal education reauthorizations have been few and far between. Unfortunately, the bipartisan support necessary to pass new federal education laws has been in short supply. The enactment of the *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA), for example, was deemed a “Christmas miracle” by President Obama when the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress passed it almost 14 years after *No Child Left Behind Act* (NCLB) was enacted. Now, the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress has rewritten another of the nation’s main federal education statutes, the *Perkins Career and Technical Education Act*, in a rare display of bipartisanship.



Congress began rewriting the Perkins Act some four years ago, laying the groundwork for the current revisions. The House passed its version of the Perkins bill in June 2017. And in a somewhat unusual process, the Senate added several House-passed provisions to the Senate bill in July 2018, after which the House cleared the bill by adopting the Senate’s version of the Perkins Act. The president then signed the new law.

The reauthorization is an update of the 2006 Perkins amendments, but it is not a wholesale revision. However, the new Act places new limits on federal authority and provides greater state-level program determinations. Like the bipartisan ESSA legislation, the Perkins bill expands numerous requirements at the state and local level, including state and local program plans/applications, data collection, reporting, accountability, and program improvement provisions.

Key new provisions also include allowing for middle-school career exploration; tying accountability requirements to CTE “concentrators” (students taking at least two courses in a single CTE program or program of study); emphasizing coordinated and sequenced programs of study at the secondary and postsecondary levels; accentuating work-based learning opportunities; addressing performance gaps; and requiring improvement plans for consecutive failures to meet 90 percent of the newly revised performance indicators. Moreover, the new Perkins amendments require four-year (instead of the current six-year) state and local plans/applications and include a mandatory biennial local comprehensive needs assessment. At the same time, the new statute allows states to reset their state maintenance of financial effort for the program year beginning in July 2019, which could result in a reduction in state-level CTE funding.

Although the new legislation received little fanfare during congressional consideration, a significant amount of consensus building was needed to forge the bipartisan, bicameral agreement. While the business community strongly endorsed the bill, the Council of the Great City Schools along with most other education groups (including the two national CTE organizations) took no position on the bill – neither in support nor opposition. Nonetheless, implementation of over 150 pages of new legislative language in the Perkins Act will present significant challenges at the state and local level prior to its July 2019 effective date.

## NYC School Wins Library of Congress Award

New York City’s East Side Community School, a 6-12<sup>th</sup>-grade Title I public school, recently won one of three 2018 Literacy Awards by the Library of Congress.

Created in 2013, the Literacy Awards honor organizations doing “exemplary, innovative and replicable work, and they spotlight the need for the global community to unite in working for universal liter-

acy,” according to the world’s largest library.

The East Side Community School won the Library of Congress’ \$50,000 American Prize for its independent reading program, where students read an average of some 40 books each year.

Strong reading instruction, extended inside and outside reading time, exposure to appealing books, book clubs, author vis-

its, conversations around books and stakeholder support have made East Side “a national model for the capacity of schools to create a powerful culture of reading.”

“Literacy empowers people around the world, giving them the chance for learning, fulfillment and participation in civic life,” said Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden in a news release.

## School District in Louisville Avoids State Takeover

The Jefferson County Public Schools in Louisville recently approved a deal with the Kentucky Department of Education to avoid a state takeover.

In an agreement approved by the Jefferson County Board of Education in a 4-3 vote, Kentucky's largest school district will be able to maintain local control of its schools.

The settlement requires that representatives from both the school district and the state education department work on a final corrective action plan. If the two sides don't agree on the plan, Interim Kentucky Education Commissioner Wayne Lewis will make the final determination.

The settlement also states that the Kentucky Department of Education will audit the district again in 2020, and the superintendent must update the commissioner on an ongoing basis.

In thanking the school board for "hours and hours" of work, Superintendent Marty Pollio said in a press release, "This has been the most challenging time (out of) all of the things we have had to confront and deal with. I know that we don't all agree on this, but I do have faith that we will continue to do the great work that we have done over the past 13 or 14 months."

## Voters Pass School Ballot Measures

Election Day brought positive results for three urban school districts.

A \$65-million bond referendum passed overwhelmingly for Mississippi's Jackson Public Schools. The bond passed with 86 percent voting for the measure.

Passage of the bond gives the 26,000-student district the opportunity to complete improvements and restore infrastructure at all of its 56 schools.

Voters in Florida's Orange County recently approved the renewal of a one-mill property tax for an additional four years to benefit Orange County Public Schools in Orlando. Funds from the tax will be used

**Ballot Measures** continued on page 12

## Students Engage in Different Kind Of Summer Break

When students return to school every year, many are asked, "What did you do this summer?"

For more than 20,000 elementary students in North Carolina's Guilford County Schools in Greensboro, they buried their noses in books.

The school district launched *Break with a Book*, a new literacy and family engagement initiative that kicked off the summer break at the close of the 2017-18 school year.

The initiative focused on helping elementary students who attend Title I schools in the district avoid the summer learning loss – the so-called "summer slide."

Students in kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade had the opportunity to select six books each for their home libraries from a collection of culturally diverse books suited for a range of reading levels. And parents received resources to help build their children's vocabulary and increase overall literacy.

"Literacy is the cornerstone of academic success, and by fostering a love of reading and practicing reading during the summer

months, every student can have a strong foundation for future learning," said Guilford County Schools Superintendent Sharon Contreras.

Research indicates that reading six books over the summer can help students master critical literacy skills, while preventing some summer learning loss, where students lose some of the academic gains they achieved the previous school year.

"Families are always looking for new resources to help their children learn and succeed in the classroom and beyond," said Lindsay Whitley, director of the Guilford Parent Academy, the district's family engagement division. "We are excited to join forces with parents to help students remain engaged academically over the summer break."



Students select books for summer reading in a new initiative launched by North Carolina's Guilford County Schools in Greensboro.



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## Houston District and Research Official Win Council Awards

The Houston Independent School District recently received the Council of the Great City Schools' *Making Strides Together Curriculum Award* for the district's Achieve 180 program, an initiative to turn around underperforming schools.

The award is bestowed on Council member districts that create initiatives using collaborative efforts to solve complex challenges.

But it is unusual for the Council to award an initiative during its first year of

implementation because complex projects always need some time to evolve, according to Ricki Price-Baugh, the Council's director of academic achievement.

Students in Houston's Achieve 180 schools saw double-digit growth gains in its first year of implementation.

Sponsored by the Council and Curriculum Associates, the award comes with a \$4,000 prize, and was presented this summer at the Council's Curriculum and Research Directors annual conference.

### **Research Award**

The Council also honored Houston's Assistant Superintendent of Research and Accountability Carla Stevens, who received the READ (Research, Evaluation, and Assessment Directors) Award for Distinguished Service in Educational Research.

She received the honor for 25 years of service to urban educational research in the Houston Independent School District.

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**Ballot Measures** *continued from page 11*



to retain highly qualified teachers, protect arts and athletic programs and maintain academic programs and student activities.

According to district officials, without an extension of the one mill, the district would have had to eliminate \$143 million from its 2019 budget.

And voters approved a recent referendum to support Broward County Public Schools in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

The Secure the Next Generation 1/2 Mill Referendum will provide the district

with funds to increase salaries for teachers and school-related staff, secure additional school resource officers and security staff at schools, and provide programs for students such as guidance counselors and behavior specialists.

"The approval of the referendum is a testament to our community's commitment to ensuring our schools are safe, our teachers and school-related staff receive better compensation, and our commitment to doing everything we can to support the well-being of our students," said Broward Schools Superintendent Robert Runcie in a press release, following the referendum's passage.